

Application No. 09/256,845

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1. (Cancelled)

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2. (Currently amended) The method of claim + 46, wherein said the at least one template comprises at least one page description language template.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein said at least page description language template comprises at least one Hypertext Markup Language (HTML) document.

4. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein said at least page description language template comprises at least one Standard Generalized Markup Language (SGML) document.

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim + 46, wherein said the references are embedded in said the at least one template using user-defined tags.

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim + 46, wherein which specific the back-end information access functionality that is actually invoked is determined based, at least in part, on which platform a given client executes.

7. - 9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 7 46, wherein said a template manager stores parsed versions of templates in a template cache, so that each template need only be parsed once.

11. (Currently amended) The method of claim 10, wherein said the parsed versions of templates are maintained on a persistent storage, so that the parsed templates are available from one application execution session to another.

12. (Currently amended) The method of claim 10, wherein any at least one parsed version of a template is templates are flushed, so that said system is forced to again parse said the at least one template.

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13. (Cancelled)

~~SQL~~ 14. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~13~~ 47, wherein said the back-end database comprises includes an SQL database system that retrieves information in response to SQL queries.

15. - 18. (Cancelled)

~~information access~~ 19. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~13~~ 46, wherein said specific the back-end information access functionality invoked is based, at least in part, on a specific client session that is executing.

~~logic that implements the action of providing the specified functionality to access information~~ 20. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~13~~ 46, wherein said application comprises consists of a single code base application that is deployed on multiple platforms.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~13~~ 46, wherein said the abstract references comprise include tokens specifying programming constructs.

23. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein said programming constructs include conditional logic statements.

24. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein said conditional logic statements include "if" statements.

25. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein said conditional logic statements include "for" loops.

26. - 29. (Cancelled)

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30. (Currently amended) The system of claim 26 60, wherein at least some of the templates comprise the particular template includes at least page description language template.

31. (Original) The system of claim 30, wherein said at least one page description language template comprises a Hypertext Markup Language (HTML) document.

32. (Original) The system of claim 30, wherein said at least one page description language template comprises a Standard Generalized Markup Language (SGML) document.

33. (Currently amended) The system of claim 26 60, wherein said tokens the abstract references are embedded in said at least one the particular template using user-defined tags.

34. (Currently amended) The system of claim 26 60, wherein which run-time services that are actually invoked is determined based, at least in part, on which platform a given client executes.

35. (Cancelled)

36. (Currently amended) The system of claim 26 60, wherein said template manager stores parsed templates in a template cache, so that each template need only be parsed once.

37. (Currently amended) The system of claim 26 36, wherein said parsed templates are maintained on a persistent storage, so that the parsed templates are available from one application execution session to another.

38. (Currently amended) The system of claim 26 36, wherein any parsed templates are occasionally flushed, so that said system is forced to again parse said at least one the particular template.

39. (Cancelled)

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40. (Currently amended) The system of claim 26 60, wherein ~~said the~~ back-end database comprises an SQL database system that retrieves information in response to SQL queries.

41. (Currently amended) The system of claim 26 60, wherein ~~said at least one~~ the particular template comprises at least one read-only template.

42. (Currently amended) The system of claim 26 60, wherein ~~said at least one~~ the particular template is loaded by browser software running at said particular client.

43. (Currently amended) The system of claim 26 60, wherein ~~said at least one~~ the particular template comprises an input form having a platform-specific presentation when rendered at a given client.

44. (Cancelled)

45. (Currently amended) The system of claim 26 60, wherein which run-time services are invoked is determined based, at least in part, on a specific client session that is executing.

46. (New) A method of creating and deploying an application that provides access to back-end information access functionality, including:

creating at least one template including one or more abstract references that specify functionality to be invoked when a given client requests the template;

registering the abstract references with a dictionary that associates the abstract references with at least one run-time handler and one or more run-time services; and

providing the specified functionality to access information, including:

receiving a request from the given client that identifies at least one template;

accessing the identified template and determining the abstract references in the identified template;

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accessing the dictionary and determining the run-time handler and the run-time services associated with the abstract references; and invoking the run-time handler and the run time services to access to the back-end information access functionality.

47. (New) The method of claim 46, wherein the back-end functionality includes accessing information in a back-end database.

48. (New) The method of claim 46, wherein the back-end functionality includes accessing information in a configuration table.

49. (New) The method of claim 46, wherein the back-end functionality includes accessing information from machine services.

50. (New) The method of claim 46, wherein the request can be resolved to the given client, further including invoking the run-time handler and the run time services using parameters corresponding to the client identity.

51. (New) The method of claim 46, wherein the request can be resolved to a platform from which the request originates, further including invoking the run-time handler and the run time services using parameters corresponding to the platform.

52. (New) The method of claim 46, wherein the request can be resolved to the given client and a platform from which the request originates, further including invoking the run-time handler and the run time services using parameters corresponding to the given client and the platform.

53. (New) The method of claim 47, wherein the request can be resolved to the given client and a platform from which the request originates, further including invoking the run-time handler and the run time services using parameters corresponding to the given client and the platform.

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54. (New) The method of claim 46, wherein the abstract references specify functionality that is independent of a platform from which the request originates.

55. (New) The method of claim 46, wherein the abstract references specify functionality that is independent of the given client.

56. (New) The method of claim 46, wherein the abstract references specify functionality that is independent of any particular back-end database.

57. (New) The method of claim 46, wherein the back-end database includes a synchronization engine.

58. (New) The method of claim 46, wherein the request can be resolved to a platform from which the request originates, further including composing a presentation adapted to the platform.

59. (New) The method of claim 58, wherein the run time services that access information in the back-end database are independent of logic that composes the adapted presentation.

60. (New) A template repository and template manager system that provide access to a back-end information access functionality in response to a client request for a template, including:

a template repository that stores templates, a particular template including one or more abstract references that specify back-end information access functionality to be invoked when the client requests the particular template;

a dictionary that associates the abstract references with one or more run-time services; and

a template manager, responsive to the client request that identifies the particular template, including logic that

accesses the template repository and parses the particular template,

accesses the dictionary and resolves the abstract references to the associated run-time services, and

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invokes the associated run-time services that provide back-end information access functionality.